



RURAL DISTRICT OF
CASTLE WARD

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

For 1964.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.
 (Until September, 1964)

Acting Medical Officer of Health - H. J. NICHOLSON, M.B., CH.B.
 (September - December, 1964)

Chief Public Health Inspector
 and Cleansing Superintendent - E. W. STRACHAN,
 M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector - J. TAYLOR, M.A.P.H.I.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1964

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1964. The year was saddened by the illness and death of Dr. Madge Hopper who had been Medical Officer of Health since 1948. Her work for the Council and for the people of the district will be long remembered as will the goodwill she created with all whom she came in contact. It was particularly tragic that her illness and death came at a time when she was about to begin a well earned retirement.

As I was not Medical Officer of Health for any part of 1964, I have had to rely heavily upon others in the preparation of this report. Thanks are especially due to Mr. Strachan for much information and to Miss M. E. Douglas for the preparation of the draft and for work with the statistics.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. C. T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT :

Area in acres .. . . . .	.. ..	82,846
Registrar General's estimated population .. . .	.. ..	29,310
Number of habitable houses .. . . . .	.. ..	9,263
(including 228 not separately assessed)		
Sum represented by penny rate .. . . . .	.. ..	£4,340
Rateable value .. . . . .	.. ..	£1,039,411

CHANGES IN POPULATION :

Population ..	1951 ..	14,570
	1956 ..	17,470
	1961 ..	25,330
	1962 ..	26,590
	1963 ..	28,220
	1964 ..	29,310

The expansion of the population has been due to the development of Newbiggin Hall Estate by Newcastle Corporation and to private development at North Gosforth, Whorlton, Woolsington, Heddon-on-the-Wall and Ponteland.

VITAL STATISTICS — 1964

		Numbers			
		Males	Females	Total	Rates
TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS	215	226	441		
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				15.05	
Comparability factor				0.97	
Standardised birth rate per 1,000 population				14.60	
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	5	3	8		
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 births				1.81	
STILLBIRTHS	2	2	4		
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths				8.99	
INFANT DEATHS					
(Deaths in first year)	5	2	7		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				15.87	
ILLEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS ..				Nil	
NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first 4 weeks)	3	1	4		
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births				9.07	
PERINATAL DEATHS (Deaths in first week plus stillbirths)	5	3	8		
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				17.98	
MATERNAL DEATH (including abortion)				Nil	
TOTAL DEATHS	273	238	511		
Crude death rate per 1,000 population)				17.44	
Comparability factor				0.67	
Standardised death rate per 1,000 population				11.68	

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

1964	Standardised Death Rate	Standardised Birth Rate	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate
	County Borough Urban Districts Rural Districts of Northumberland Rural District of Castle Ward	11.3 12.6 12.9 11.9 11.7	18.4 17.0 17.0 16.7 14.6	6.4 6.8 5.2 5.2 1.8	16.3 16.0 16.8 13.0 9.0	20.0 20.1 21.2 16.0 15.9	13.8 14.9 15.9 11.5 9.1
<i>Comparability Factor</i>							
Births			
Deaths			
					<i>Urban Districts</i>	<i>Rural Districts</i>	<i>Castle Ward Rural District</i>
					0.99	1.08	0.97
					1.01	0.88	0.67

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

	Standardised Death Rate	Standardised Birth Rate	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate
.. 1956-60	.. 11.0	.. 16.2	.. 1.7	.. 15.9	.. 17.4	.. 13.4	.. 29.0
.. 1961..	.. 11.8	.. 15.9	.. 1.4	.. 23.2	.. 16.7	.. 16.7	.. 39.5
.. 1962..	.. 13.1	.. 15.4	.. 3.1	.. 12.8	.. 25.2	.. 17.8	.. 24.1
.. 1963..	.. 11.0	.. 16.6	.. 2.7	.. 14.8	.. 24.6	.. 18.5	.. 30.4
.. 1964..	.. 11.7	.. 14.6	.. 1.8	.. 9.0	.. 15.9	.. 9.1	.. 18.0

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF CASTLE WARD

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	No. of deaths	% of total
Cancer	57	11.2
Vascular lesions of central nervous system	140	27.4
Heart disease	205	40.1
Chest disease	40	7.8
Other disease	42	8.4
Violence	27	5.3

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Male ..	9	7	5	8	14
Female ..	—	4	5	5	2
Totals ..	9	11	10	13	16

DEATHS FROM CORONARY THROMBOSIS

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Male ..	30	28	40	40	54
Female ..	24	21	21	24	25
Totals ..	54	49	61	64	79

DEATHS CAUSED THROUGH MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Male ..	1	2	4	4	11
Female ..	1	2	1	—	—
Totals ..	2	4	5	4	11

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

There were three post neonatal deaths, two from pneumonia and one from congenital heart disease.

The other four occurred in the first week of life, two were ascribed to cerebral haemorrhage consequent on birth trauma, one was ascribed to prematurity and the other was a congenital defect — hydrocephalus and meningococele.

COMMENT ON CAUSES OF DEATH

290 of the 511 deaths occurred among long stay residents of hospitals within the district. These can be sorted out but in analysing the remainder it has to be remembered that many had not been residents in the district for long. Nevertheless three points are worthy of comment. One quarter of the cancer deaths were due to cancer of the lung. 16 persons (14 males and 2 females) died of this disease, 9 of them under the age of 65. 22 males and 3 females under the age of 65 died of coronary thrombosis. The association of cigarette smoking with both these diseases is now well established and with cancer of the lung smoking is almost certainly a direct causal factor.

In 1964 this area had a most shocking toll of deaths on the roads. (The statistics refer to the deaths of residents of this district rather than to deaths within the district). Eleven men, three pedestrians and eight motorists died in this way.

Modern medicine and improved education and social conditions have led to the virtual disappearance of many of the great scourges of the past such as tuberculosis, infections of childhood, complications of childbirth and pneumonia. The expectation of life of most groups of the population has increased enormously. The only group that have not shared in this increase are middle aged men. With them new diseases have arisen to take the place of the old. That many men are dying just when their family responsibilities are at their height is an all too unpleasant fact. Much has yet to be learned about the causes of lung cancer and of coronary thrombosis and while the causes of road accidents are being intensively investigated the solution to the problem seems a long way off. The individual however can do much to protect himself firstly by dropping smoking cigarettes, secondly by moderating his diet and thirdly by reducing the amount and the speed of his motoring activities.

**YEARLY RETURN OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
1964**

DISEASE	0—1	1—4	5—14	15—44	45—64	65+	Total
Measles ..	8	101	51	—	—	—	160
Whooping Cough	1	5	10	—	—	—	16
Pneumonia ..	—	1	2	—	1	—	4
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	4	—	—	—	5
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ..	—	5	12	46	—	—	63

ANTHRAX

In January notification was received that a cow belonging to a milking herd was suffering from anthrax. The farmer immediately slaughtered the animal and the carcase was disposed of by the police in the usual manner.

As the animal had been in the byre during the evening milking it was thought prudent to destroy this milk. Compensation amounting to £3 14s. 3d. was paid to the farmer.

Anthrax can spread to humans and the bacillus gains entry to the body through cuts and abrasions. All persons who had been in contact with the animal were examined and a few were sent to their own doctor for prophylactic treatment.

MEASLES

Measles started up again in the autumn and continued to a maximum early in 1965. The previous epidemic was in the winter of 1962 - 63.

WHOOPING COUGH

Sporadic cases occurred during the year. In children who have been immunised this disease is usually mild and actual whooping is uncommon ; the course of the illness is still prolonged.

STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

Scarlet fever and erysipelas occur occasionally but are usually very mild. The cases of puerperal pyrexia that occur are mostly not streptococcal in origin.

TYPHOID

The Aberdeen typhoid epidemic occurred in May and June. As a result of this and previous outbreaks corned beef came under suspicion and it was decided by the Ministry that certain batches should be withdrawn from sale, as the tins had not been cooled in properly chlorinated water. Checking the batches involved the public health inspectors in a great deal of extra work.

PARATYPHOID

One case occurred in a child. She had contracted the infection abroad.

OTHER SALMONELLA INFECTIONS

Two cases occurred of *Salmonella typhi murium* infection. The sources were not traced.

DYSENTERY

Sporadic cases of *Shigella Sonnei* infection occurred. Towards the end of the year a sharp outbreak of dysentery *Shigella flexner* type VI occurred in an institution. This outbreak continued into 1965. One death was ascribed to this cause and to inanition due to mental deficiency. The public health inspectors had a great deal to do in the early stages of this outbreak until alternative arrangements were made for the collection of specimens.

STATEMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1964

		No. of cases on Register at commencement of Quarter		New Notifications		Inward Transfers		Number of cases removed from Register		Number of cases remaining	
		Pul-mony	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.
March 31st, 1964—											
Males	..	95	12	2	—	1	—	1	1	97	11
Females	..	98	21	1	1	—	—	1	1	98	21
June 30th, 1964—											
Males	..	97	11	2	—	3	—	2	—	100	11
Females	..	98	21	2	—	1	—	2	1	99	20
September 30th, 1964—											
Males	..	100	11	—	—	3	—	2	—	101	11
Females	..	99	20	1	—	1	—	—	1	101	19
December 31st, 1964—											
Males	..	101	11	1	—	2	—	2	1	102	11
Females	..	101	19	—	—	6	—	1	1	106	18

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES, 1964

NEW CASES

INWARD TRANSFERS

AGE PERIODS	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
15—24 ..	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
25—34 ..	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
35—44 ..	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	—
45—55 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65—74 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75+ ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	—	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	—	—
	<u>8</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>17</u>		—	

Analysis of the tuberculosis situation in this district is difficult because of the increase of population, the number of inward transfers and the large hospital population. It would seem for the size of population that the number of new cases arising in the district is small.

On a national scale the tuberculosis situation was transformed between 1946 and 1960. The main factor was the introduction of effective drug treatment of the disease. For the individual this improved the outlook, from an illness lasting for years with recovery very much in the balance, to an illness which can generally be cured in a matter of months. Treatment not only helps the individual but the whole community as it quickly renders non infectious those individuals who are transmitting the disease.

Early case finding is the other main aim of both treatment and prevention. It greatly enhances the prospect of an early cure and of course stops spread of the disease to others. All contacts both at home and work of any case are seen at the chest clinic and many are followed up. Until recently Mass X-Ray units toured the district and all members of the public were encouraged to have an annual check. At first these units were discovering up to 5 per 1,000 individuals with tuberculosis but recently the number has dropped to below 1 per 1,000. Up to 50% of the population attended these units but it was thought that the same individuals came every year and that the reservoir of tuberculosis in the community was in the individuals who could not be induced to attend. This and the high cost per case diagnosed has led the Regional Board to change its policy and to rely more on static units such as the one at Newcastle General Hospital. Any persons over 14 years of age can go to this unit on their own initiative or on the advice of their doctor and it is hoped that all persons who are out of sorts or who have developed a cough will attend.

A third weapon in the hands of the preventive services is B.C.G. inoculation. This reduces the incidence of tuberculosis by about 4/5ths. It is given by the chest clinics to all contacts of cases and where possible, is done soon after birth. It is also offered to all school children aged 12 - 13 years. They are given a preliminary Mantoux test and those negative to the test have B.C.G. Those positive to the test have an X-Ray but active tuberculosis is seldom found.

Lastly improved living conditions for many members of the population have undoubtedly contributed to the improved outlook. The Council have a part to play in the relief of overcrowding and the improvement of housing standards which help in preventing tuberculosis as well as improving the health and well being of the community.

WATER SUPPLY

A medical officer of health should inform himself as soon as possible about the water supply to his area. Having done so I thought it may be of interest to set out a description of the sources treatment and supply of Castle Ward's water. This information has been obtained from Dr. Palin the chief chemist and Mr. Lowther the chief engineer of Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company and I am very much indebted to them.

Most of the area is supplied by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's own supply but the eastern fringe of Castle Ward receives water from the Coquet Water Board.

Newcastle and Gateshead Supply :

SOURCES	% of total
Upland Surface reservoirs :	
Catcleugh	48
Colt Crag and Little Swinburne	8
East and West Hallington	8
Whittle Dene	13
	—
	77
River Water :	
Tyne at Barrasford into West Hallington	1
Tyne at Wylam (pre-chlorinated) into Whittle Dene	22

The water from Catcleugh, Colt Crag and Little Swinburne and Hallington is conveyed by tunnel, pipeline or open water course to Whittle Dene and is purified either there or at Throckley treatment works.

PURIFICATION

There are three elements in the purification of the supply.

1. *Storage.* This is done primarily to even out the supply but it has the incidental effect of reducing the bacterial count very considerably.
2. *Filtration.* Several types of filter are in use. At Whittle Dene there are some of the old fashioned types of slow sand filter. These are efficient but take up a lot of space and are relatively costly to run. The rapid gravity filter or pressure filter are more satisfactory and these are used both at Whittle Dene and at Throckley. Alum is added to the water which combines with organic matter and forms a coagulum. This is trapped by the filter. The filters are cleaned by simply backwashing at an increased rate of flow.
3. *Chlorination.* The water from the river Tyne is chlorinated at source. At the filter works after treatment 0.15 parts per million ammonia and 0.6 parts per million chlorine is added. This amount can be raised or lowered according to the amount of residual chlorine determined.

Coquet Water Board Supply.

Water is abstracted from the river Coquet at Warkworth, screened, pumped to the treatment works and screened again. Alum is added and the water passes to sedimentation tanks. These are of a new type devised by Mr. Barrett the General Manager of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. From the sedimentation tanks water passes to rapid

gravity filters. 0.8 parts per million of chlorine are then added and a 36" pipeline conveys the water to Longbenton Governor House where it enters the distribution network of the Newcastle and Gateshead Company.

DISTRIBUTION

- (a) From Whittle Dene water is pumped to Harlow Hill a tank of 750,000 gallons. From here the western part of the area is supplied.
- (b) From both Whittle Dene and Throckley water goes to Benwell reservoir and is pumped from there to Fenham reservoir (capacity 8 million gallons). The central part of Castle Ward is supplied from here.
- (c) The eastern part of the area including Stannington and Brunton and Melton Parks receive water from the Coquet supply via Longbenton Governor House.

A complicated network of distribution pipes covers the whole area and the part at which pressure from the three service reservoirs equalises is somewhat variable. Thus Ponteland is between the Harlow Hill and Fenham tanks and Dinnington between Fenham and Longbenton.

SAMPLING

Two methods are in common use — chemical and bacteriological. For the purposes of day to day control bacteriological methods are most useful. This demonstrates the presence of the organism B coli and the number in 100 ml. of water can be counted.

The water from the upland surface sources has a variable number of B coli on arrival at Whittle Dene but the average is about 50 per 100 ml.

The Tyne water has a very high count but after chlorination, that is before entering the reservoir at Whittle Dene, the number of B coli is negligible.

After filtration and chlorination a total of 1240 works control samples were taken from Whittle Dene and Throckley. Only two of these were below "excellent" quality.

At Longbenton Governor House 240 samples were taken and only one was below "excellent" quality.

From domestic taps in the district 42 samples were taken and all were of "excellent" quality.

QUANTITY

No restrictions were placed on the use of water by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water company.

SUPPLIES TO HOUSES

PARISH	Inhabited Houses	Mains Supply	PRIVATE SUPPLY		Other
			Piped to Houses	to Standpipe	
Belsay	172	54	113	3	2
Brunswick	288	288	—	—	—
Capheaton	67	24	35	8	—
Dinnington	454	454	—	—	—
Hazlerigg	509	509	—	—	—
Heddon	619	599	20	—	—
Matfen	156	142	13	—	1
North Gosforth	1277	1277	—	—	—
Ponteland	2304	2303	1	—	—
Stamfordham	359	348	10	1	—
Stannington	367	362	5	—	—
Whalton	148	114	30	4	—
Woolsington	2543	2542	1	—	—
	9263	9016	228	16	3

It is hoped during 1965 to look into the sources, the quality and the quantity of water from the various private supplies.

**Annual Report of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent
1964**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

The following milk distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 :—

REGISTERED DISTRIBUTORS :

Mr. J. H. Brown, Ivy House, Kenton Bank Foot.
 Cramlington & District Co-operative Society Ltd., Brunswick Village.
 Mr. H. J. Farquhar, 10 Queensway, Brunton Park.
 Mr. J. A. Herron, Woodside, Darras Hall.
 Mr. J. Hudspeth, North Brunton Farm, North Gosforth.
 Newcastle Co-operative Society, Cowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne.
 Messrs. W. & J. Pearson, 2 Grey Street, Brunswick Village.
 Mr. H. Thompson, Hawthorne Cottage, Brunton Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne.
 Throckley & District Co-operative Society Ltd., Hexham Road, Throckley.
 Mrs. M. U. White, North Mason Farm, Dinnington.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960, responsibility for licensing the use of Special Designations (i.e. "Tuberculin Tested", "Pasteurised", "Sterilized") rests with the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. Milk sampling is now carried out by the County Health Inspector and the following samples were taken in this district during the year :—

Tuberculin Tested	16
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	2
Pasteurised	23
	—
	41
	—

All samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

(b) FOOD PREMISES

There are 159 food premises in the district as follows :—

Bakers and Confectioners	5
Butchers	10
Canteens (Industrial)	6
Clubs	8

Food Manufacturers .. .	2
Fried Fish Shops (1 mobile) ..	2
General Dealers (including grocers and greengrocers)	53
Hospital and Institution Kitchens	10
Public Houses and Off-licences	33
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack- bars	12
School kitchens and Dining Rooms	16
Slaughterhouses	2
	—
	159

Of these premises 54 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the following purposes :—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream ..	1
Sale of Ice-Cream	42
Manufacture of Sausage and Preserved Meats	11
	—
	54

A number of ice-cream kiosks and travelling shops operate in the district which are subject to supervision under the appropriate regulations.

(c) ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1959

Three samples of ice-cream were taken for examination by the Public Health Laboratory, one manufacturer's sample and two from retailers.

Results were as follows :—

Provisional Grade I	3
	—

(d) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 — SAMPLING OF FOOD

The Northumberland County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority are responsible for sampling under this heading and 120 samples were taken in the Castle Ward area during the year.

The following information has kindly been supplied by Mr. C. L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector, County Weights and Measures Department :—

Particulars of samples taken in the Castle Ward Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

Almond Marzipan	Kosher Margarine
Antacid Powder	Lemon Cheese
Aspic Jelly Powder	Lemon Juice
Baking Powder	Lemon Pie Filling
Bakewell Tart Mixture	Liquid Apple
Barley Kernels	Low Sugar Blackcurrant Jam

Beef-burgers	Milk
Beef Sausage	Mixed Grill
Blackcurrant Health Drink	Mixed Spice
Blueberry Pie Filling	Orange Drink
Black Cherry Jam	Orange Squash
Brandy	Parsley Sauce Mix
Butter	Pasteurised Honey
Butterscotch Ice Cream Sauce	Peanut Spread
Cheshire Cheese	Peeled Tomatoes
Cheesey Crisps	Pineapple Juice
Clam Juice	Pork Sausage
Cod Liver Oil	Pure Coffee
Creamery Cheese	Quick Batter Mix
Curry Powder	Quick Rice Pudding
Demerara Sugar	Rich Milk (18% butter fat)
Dijon Mustard	Rose Hip Syrup
Dried Apricots	Rum
Dried Pears	Sardine & Tomato Spread
Egg Noodle Soup	Scotch Whisky Flavoured
Fish Cakes	Marmalade
Frying Oil	Shredded Beef Suet
Gin	Stewed Steak
Ginger Butters	Strawberry Conserve
Glace Cherries	Strawberry Jam
Glucose D	Swiss Baby Food
Ground Almonds	Tea
Hamburgers	Tinned Carrots
Instant Jelly	Tomato Ketchup
Instant not fat milk	Venison with Vegetables
Jaffa Orange Juice	Whisky
	Zinc and Castor Oil Cream

Number of samples taken (other than Milk) ..	85
Number of Milk samples taken (Formal) ..	30
Number of Milk samples taken at schools (Informal)	5
Total :	120

Number genuine .. 117 Number Unsatisfactory .. 3

PARTICULARS OF UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

The three samples which proved unsatisfactory were :—

Sample	Analysis	Action taken
Tomato Ketchup	41% deficient in Tomato Solids.	Manufacturers increased the percentage of tomato solids in their new recipe. Further sample taken proved satisfactory.
Lemon Juice	Contained 970 parts per million sulphur dioxide. Legal limit 350 p.p.m.	Manufacturers in Italy dispatched the wrong type of lemon juice in error. Importers cautioned.

Cheesey Crisps The label claimed that these crisps are of excellent food value as they contained mature Cheddar Cheese. The sample contained only 3 parts of cheese solids in 100 parts by weight of crisps, therefore the claim is incorrect.

Manufacturers agreed to increase the cheese content and amend the label.

(e) COMPLAINTS OF UNSOUND FOOD

During the year four complaints were received under this heading. These were as follows :—

1. Foreign body in tin of corn beef.
2. Foreign body in packet of Indian Beef Curry.
3. Meat pastry affected with mould.
4. Meat pies affected with mould.

The Health Committee's decision on these matters was as follows :—

In the case of the foreign body in the tin of corn beef, as the corn beef was prepared and canned outside this country, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was informed of the position so that they could take whatever action with the importers that they deemed necessary. In the other three cases the firms concerned were warned that should the offence be repeated there would be a distinct possibility of legal proceedings being instituted.

(f) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

In January of this year, all but one of the four slaughterhouses ceased to operate after a period of ten years. These three slaughterhouses in addition to one that terminated in June 1963, were replaced by the new abattoir of R. Manners & Sons Ltd., built on the Meadowfield Industrial Site, Ponteland.

The Ponteland abattoir, which came into operation on 1st February is of up to date design, and in every way built in accordance with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958. Provided within the same building is a factory for the manufacture and processing of meat and meat products.

Whilst 100% inspection of meat has always been carried out in this district since June, 1954, the improved facilities which the above abattoir, and the slaughterhouse of E. Lumley & Son of Stamfordham provides, enables this work to be more easily carried out.

In spite of this however, meat inspection now demands much more time, due not only to the greater throughput of animals, but also to the requirements of the "Meat Inspection Regulations 1963", which states that where practicable, inspection shall be made while the carcases are being dressed, and requires in addition a more detailed examination to be made. Slaughtering now takes place seven days per week throughout the year, and consequently, involves full time meat inspection. For this purpose an additional Public Health Inspector has been engaged in the department.

The Northumbrian Chicken Company situated also on the Meadowfield Light Industrial Site, Ponteland, deals with approximately 26,000 birds per week. This packing station serves Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire, and has 40 growers under contract.

There are no disease problems due to the co-operation of producers in their disease prevention programme. Fowl Pest vaccination is essential, and no broilers can be marketed through the packing station unless they have been vaccinated. All breeding stock too are vaccinated against epidemic tremor, so that maternal resistance may be passed on to the chick.

This factory receives regular visits from the department and from the high standard of cleanliness shown, it is obvious the industry when considering new methods including automation to improve output, they are at the same time, conscious of the importance of hygiene.

DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Normal Kill	5218	928	277	18960	4198	29581
Casualties	20	28	—	123	12	183
Number examined	5238	956	277	19083	4210	29764
CARCASES CONDEMNED WHOLLY OR IN PART :						
A. All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	35	6	2	155	17	215
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1738	364	—	1629	1127	4858
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	33.84%	38.7%	.72%	8.82%	27.17%	17.04%
B. Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1	2	—	—	28	31
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	.019%	.2%	—	—	.66%	.1%
C. Cysticercosis :						
Whole Carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	10	—	—	2	—	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci .. .. .	.19%	—	—	.01%	—	.04%

DETAILS OF MEAT AND OTHER ORGANS CONDEMNED SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF

FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Bovine

Heads	1
Lungs	3
Mesenteric fat ..	1

Pigs

Heads	27
Stomach and	
Intestines ..	1

FOR OTHER DEFINED DISEASES :

Bovine

Heads & Tongues ..	25	Abscesses 3, Actinobacillosis 3, Actinomycosis 9, Congested Lymph Glands 2, Cysticercus Bovis 6, Gangrene 1, Tumor 1.
Hearts	32	Cysticercus Bovis 4, Myocarditis 2, Pericarditis 26.
Kidneys	18	Hydronephrosis 5, Nephritis 6, Retention Cysts 7.
Livers (whole) ..	753	Abscesses 168, Cirrhosis 518, Fatty Degeneration 5, Melanosis 1, Peritonitis 10, Telangiectasis 51.
Livers (part) ..	1010	Abscesses 38, Cirrhosis 965, Fatty Degeneration 1, Peritonitis 4, Telangiectasis 2.
Lungs	216	Fluke Abscesses 27, Emphysema 3, Ill Bled 3, Parasites 2, Pleurisy 159, Pneumonia 22.
Thick Skirt	5	Contiguous Abscesses 3, Pleurisy 2.
Thin Skirt	18	Peritonitis 6, Pleurisy 12.
Spleen	3	Peritonitis 3.
Stomachs	5	Contiguous Abscess 1, Enteritis 2, Peritonitis 2.
Intestines	18	Enteritis 7, Johnes Disease 6, Pentastomes 2, Peritonitis 3.
Beef	205	Abscesses 7 st., Arthritis 34½ st., Oedema stones 7 st., Peritonitis ½ st., Traumatism 156 st.
Carcases	790	Acute Peritonitis & Generalised Oedema 4,
(43, all casualties)stones		Emaciation and Oedema 7, Gangrenous Peritonitis 1, Acute Mastitis 1, Generalised Oedema & Emaciation 2, Pyrexia 2, Johnes Disease & Emaciation 11, Generalised Oedema 2, Pyaemia 1, Septic Arthritis 1, Septic Mastitis 1, Septicaemia 7.

Sheep

Hearts .. .	12	Cysticercus Ovis 2, Pericarditis 10.
Kidneys .. .	22	Haemorrhages 3, Infarcts 2, Nephritis 9, Parasites 2, Retention Cysts 6.
Livers .. .	515	Abscesses 5, Cirrhosis 19, Cysticercus Tenuicollis 77, Fatty Infiltration 2, Fatty Degeneration 33, Fluke Infestation 162, Ill Bled 2, Parasites 188, Peritonitis 21, Toxaemia 6.
Lungs .. .	1,072	Ill Bled 5, Melanosis 4, Parasites 225, Muellerius Capillaris 251, Pleurisy 45, Pneumonia 537, Septic Pneumonia 5.
Plucks .. .	7	Abscesses 1, Pleurisy & Peritonitis 2, Pneumonia 1, Pneumonia & Peritonitis 3.
Stomach & Intestines 1		Enteritis 1.
Mutton .. .	10	Arthritis 8 st., Traumatism 1½ st., Pleurisy stones ½ st.
Carcases .. .	155 (1,511 stones)	Acute Mastitis 3, Acute Septic Pericarditis 2, Acute Septic Pneumonia 2, Arthritis 3, Caseous Lymphadenitis 1, Gangrenous Mastitis 3, Gangrenous Peritonitis 1, Gangrenous Pneumonia 1, Generalised Oedema 6, Generalised Oedema & Emaciation 86, Ill Bled 6, Immaturity 2, Moribund Carcase 2, Peritonitis & Oedema 1, Pregnancy Toxaemia 8, Pyrexia 8, Septic Arthritis 1, Septic Mastitis 1, Septic Pleurisy 1, Septic Pneumonia 10, Septicaemia 5, Severe Bruising 2.

Pigs

Heads .. .	5	Abscesses 5.
Hearts .. .	91	Pericarditis 91.
Intestines .. .	3	Acute Enteritis 1, Peritonitis 2.
Kidneys .. .	37	Hydronephrosis 2, Nephritis 11, Retention Cysts 24.
Livers .. .	156	Abscesses 1, Ascaris Lumbricoides 129, Cirrhosis 1, Cysticercus Tenuicollis 3, Fatty Degeneration 2, Parasites 7, Peritonitis 13.
Lungs .. .	811	Abscesses 1, Ill Bled 90, Melanosis 1, Parasites 4, Pleurisy 55, Pneumonia 658, Septic Pneumonia 2.
Omentum Fat .. .	1	Peritonitis 1.
Plucks .. .	22	Ill Bled 1, Pleurisy, Pericarditis & Peritonitis 20, Septic Pneumonia 1.
Spleen .. .	1	Splenic Infarcts 1.
Pork .. .	31	Abscesses 2 st., Arthritis 9 st., Traumatism stones 11 st., Gangrene 7 st., Urticaria 2 st.

Carcases .. . 17 Acute Septic Peritonitis 1, Acute Swine Erysipelas 1, Animal died before Slaughter 1, Immaturity 1, Jaundice 1, Mastitis & Peritonitis 1, Moribund Carcase 1, Pathological Emaciation 3, Pyaemia 4, Pyrexia 1, Septic Pneumonia 2.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FOOD ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED IN PAST EIGHT YEARS

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Cattle(ex. cows)	1,463	1,438	1,065	1,129	1,385	1,183	1,091	5,238
Cows	315	348	358	317	318	332	269	956
Calves	384	311	251	256	358	351	417	277
Sheep & Lambs	4,522	4,737	5,762	5,809	6,828	6,048	6,606	19,083
Pigs	2,815	1,859	1,354	1,056	411	487	388	4,210
	9,499	8,693	8,790	8,567	9,300	8,401	8,771	29,764

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of household refuse throughout the thirteen parishes covering an area of one hundred and thirty square miles was maintained, not however without difficulty. Time lost through sickness was on a basis of two men absent all the year. For the purpose of refuse collection the area is divided into six sectors. Generally speaking the sectors in the West, North West and South West are each allocated one vehicle. Other sectors vary from two to three vehicles. The distribution of population into large and small units, particularly in the eastern sectors make overlapping of vehicle runs unavoidable. At present two vehicles serve the Newbiggin Hall and Whorlton Housing Estates. This is a unit of over 2,200 houses. A relay system with one 25 cub. yd. and one 10 cub. yd. vehicle operates the service here. The development of these housing units has now reached the stage when a larger capacity refuse collecting vehicle could be employed with advantage.

Other housing development took place at Darras Hall. In all, six hundred and one extra houses were occupied during the year.

Reference was made in last year's Annual Report to the erection of all gas or electric houses in Phase I and II at Newbiggin Hall. In many instances the $2\frac{1}{2}$ cub. ft. bin provided by the Corporation, was found to be too small to contain all the household refuse. The Corporation have now agreed to provide a $3\frac{1}{4}$ cub. ft. bin in all cases where it is found necessary.

As in previous years, time has been spent in collecting household rubbish deposited in the ditches and grass verges of the country lanes. The collection consisted of the usual mattresses, chairs, and in addition this year, boxes full of garden rubbish and privet cuttings neatly bagged. If only these litter offenders would contact their own council, much of this extra work would be avoided.

SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING SERVICE

This is a service free of charge to all houses which are unable for various reasons to use the public sewers. The septic tanks are desludged every six months. The average cost per service for carrying out this work throughout the year amounts to £1 17s. 5d. per tank.

The occasion does arise on farm premises where there is a septic tank which deals exclusively with liquid waste from byres, milking establishments etc. In these instances the farmer usually requests the desludging of the septic tank at the same time as the domestic tank is being serviced. In such cases a charge for labour and running costs is made.

VEHICLES

The following vehicles are employed on the service :—

CTY 579	Thorneycroft	1948	12 cu. yds.	Side Loader.	Petrol
DNL 540	Karrier Bantam	1949	7 cu. yds.	,,	engine.
FJR 217	Karrier Bantam	1953	7 cu. yds.	Side Loader.	Petrol engine.
JNL 952	Shelvoke & Drewry	1955	18/25	„	Rear loader fore and aft tipper. Diesel engine.
PNL 140	Karrier Bantam	1959	7 cu. yds.	Side Loader.	Diesel engine.
RTY 550	Karrier Gamecock	1960	18/25	„	Rear loader fore and aft tipper. Diesel engine.
RJR 394	Thames Trader	1960	1,000 gallons.	Cesspool emptier.	Diesel engine.
WNL 796	Karrier Bantam	1962	10 cu. yds.	Side loader.	Diesel engine.
YTY 269	Shelvoke & Drewry	1963	25 cu. yds.	Rear loader fore and aft tipper.	Diesel engine.
CNL 257B	Karrier Bantam	1964	10 cu. yds.	Side loader.	Diesel engine.
YNL 71	Weatherill	1963		Mechanical Shovel	
					Diesel engine.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Disposal points are as follows :—

1. Belsay Quarry.
2. Stobhill, Cheeseburn Grange.
3. Heddon-on-the-Wall.
4. Disused Sewage Works, Woolsington.
5. Mill Hill, Dinnington.
6. Old Gravel Pit, Kirkley West Thorn.
7. Stannington.

In a rural district it is I feel generally accepted that it should be comparatively easy to find sites for the disposal of domestic refuse.

The siting of villages and large centres of population control to an appreciable extent the positioning of disposal points. The distances to travel from point of collection to place of disposal is an economic consideration.

For many years conveniently situated sites have been available, i.e., disused brickyard Ponteland, Mill Hill site, Dinnington Village. Disposal of refuse on the first mentioned has now ceased. It has been possible with the assistance of a public spirited owner to acquire a fifteen year lease of a disused sand and gravel quarry at West Thorn Kirkley. Planning permission has been granted and it is hoped to use this site early in 1965. Arrangements are also in hand to extend the Mill Hill site, planning approval is being sought.

The method of disposal is by controlled tipping. It is understood that nine out of every ten local authorities operate this method.

A Weatherill tractor with bucket and detachable dozer blade is used for levelling and spreading top cover on the sites.

CLEANSING COSTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1965

Volume of refuse removed	53,725	cu. yds.
Estimated weight of refuse removed	11,685	tons
Approximate average weight per house per annum	25.23	cwts.
Average volume per house per annum	5.8	cu. yds.
Average weight per 1,000 population per day (366 days)	21.8	cwts.
Total cost of collection and disposal (Refuse and Salvage) and operation of septic tank emptying service	£36,697	
<i>Less</i> income from salvage, trade refuse etc.	3,665	
Nett Cleansing Cost	£33,032	
Refuse collection and disposal cost per house per annum	£3	11s. 4d.
Refuse collection and disposal cost per head of population	£1	2s. 6d.
Cost on Rates in the £	7.61d.	

SALVAGE

The total amount of wastepaper salvaged during the year was 345 tons 18 cwts. 2 qrs., an increase of 45 tons 14cwts. 2 qrs. over the previous year.

Details of salvage disposed of :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Wastepaper	345	18	2	2,794	8	1
Scrap Metal and Rags	11	9	3	202	7	10
	357	8	1	£2,996	15	11

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

During the year 82 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these 69 were from properties at Kirkley West Thorn. The source of supply, a land spring was in close proximity to the proposed new refuse tip, and for this reason, regular sampling was carried out to determine the quality of the existing supply before tipping commenced. The count of coliform bacilli varied considerably, following no regular pattern, some samples being satisfactory others showing a coliform count beyond that which could be regarded a safe water supply. The Committee considered that the danger involved to health was too great and resolved to extend the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company's mains to the six properties concerned at a cost of £2,210.

The results of the samples taken are as follows :—

No. of Samples	Probable numbers per 100 ml.	
	Coliform bacilli	Bact. coli (type I)
35	Nil	Nil
10	1	Nil
1	1	1
1	2	Nil
1	2	2
3	3	Nil
4	5	Nil
1	5	1
3	8	Nil
1	8	3
1	11	Nil
3	13	Nil
1	14	Nil
2	17	Nil
4	25	Nil
1	25	1
1	30	Nil
5	35	Nil
2	90	Nil
2	180+	Nil

I am indebted to Mr. J. Lowther, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Engineer, Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company for the following information :—

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Classification</i>
Moot Law Reservoir	14	All Excellent
Harlow Hill Reservoir	14	" "
Fenham Reservoir	6	" "
Whalton Reservoir	8	" "

The following new water pipes were laid in Castle Ward Rural District during the year :—

Ponteland Parish	728 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes
	793 " " 4" " "
	45 " " 6" " "
Woolsington Parish	403 " " 3" " "
	2,681 " " 4" " "
	406 " " 6" " "
	1½ " " 18" " "
Stamfordham Parish	84 " " 3" " "
Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish	35 " " 3" " "

The following premises etc., were connected during the year :—

OPEN SUPPLY

Address	Nature of Supply	No. of Branches
Castle Ward R.D.C., South Side Stamfordham	Houses	2
Castle Ward R.D.C., Sites 4/5 North Side, Stamfordham	"	4
W. Winter, Late Rectory Cottage, Whalton	"	1
W. O. Grix, Hillhead Cottages, Whalton	"	2
J. V. Charlton, Sites 5/6 Bridge End,	"	2
Castle Ward R.D.C. Sites 6/8 North Side, Stamfordham	"	4
Mrs. E. M. Kington, Adj. West House Farm, Ogle	"	1
J. V. Charlton, 2 Sidney Terrace, South Side, Stamfordham	"	1

METER SUPPLY

J. R. Walton, Market Garden, Medburn	Market Garden	1
Stamfordham Playing Field Pavilion, Hawkwell	Pavilion	1
J. M. Browne-Swinburn, Frolic Farm, Capheaton	Farm	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

It is the responsibility of all Local Authorities to ensure that their district is kept free from rat and mice infestations.

Details of the number of properties visited and the treatments applied are shown in the table under this heading.

To encourage the reporting of infestations in or around dwelling houses, the Council Policy, in line with many other local authorities, is to carry out the work free of charge. This practice has contributed in no small measure to the present control of the situation.

When rat or mice infestations are found to exist on business premises, the occupier may do one of three things.

(a) To carry out the treatment himself ; (b) engage a private firm ; (c) request the Council to do the work. In the latter case a sum of £101 12s. 8d. was received for this service.

There were 106 rat and 40 mice infestations against 113 and 41 for the previous year.

A large proportion of complaints in connection with this came from occupied and unoccupied houses on new housing estates. As mentioned in previous reports the infestations originate from the building sites. Here ample cover and shelter is provided by building material. This combined with the regular supply of discarded food from the building operatives, creates the ideal conditions for rat and mice breeding.

	Type of Property					Total	
	Non-Agricultural			Agricultural			
	Refuse Tips & Sewage Works	Dwell- ing houses	All others (incl. business prem- ises)				
No. of Properties in District .	38	9000	293	461	9792		
No. of Properties inspected ..	32	127	13	7	179		
Total Inspections including Re-inspections	184	293	140	147	764		
No. of Properties found to be Infested and Treated by Local Authority :							
(a) Rats	6	106	10	8	130		
(b) Mice	—	40	13	3	56		
Total treatments carried out including Re-treatments ..	16	172	16	5	209		
No. of Block Control Schemes carried out	—	1	—	—	—	1	

Disinfestation of Premises :

Wasps' Nests	12
Beetles	3
Spiders	1
Snails	1
Earwigs	3
Bugs	1
Flies	1
Clover Mite	2

HOUSING

During the period under review sixteen demolition orders were implemented.

Throughout the year building of new houses has continued. A large proportion of this development took place on the Eastern Boundary — Newbiggin Hall and Whorlton Grange. In all six hundred-and-one houses were built of which 219 were for private ownership.

It is accepted that modern housing requirements demand the provision of a bath, wash basin, W.C. and hot water supply. Slow but steady progress to achieve this standard is being made with the aid of grants.

There will always be houses which through age and more particularly neglect gradually fall into a state of being unfit for human habitation.

Last year's Annual Report showed that there were only six houses in category 5 and twenty houses in category 4 to be dealt with. During the year fourteen of these were made satisfactory all by informal action.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

**HOUSING ACT, 1949. HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954.
RENT ACT, 1957. HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.
(SECTIONS 30—33), HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.**

HOUSING ACT, 1964.

Thirty dwellings were modernised during the year with grant assistance. These works included in each case the installation of a bathroom, hot and cold water supply, inside W.C. and drainage system with means of sewage disposal. In several instances the natural lighting of one or more rooms was at the same time increased.

The number of applications received during the year for discretionary grants was 26 compared with 30 in 1963.

The average cost per house of carrying out improvement works as distinct from items of repair amounted to £1,201 14s. 0d.

The total number of houses improved under this scheme is 427.

		<i>Discretionary Grants</i>	<i>Standard Grants</i>
(a)	Applications submitted to local authority during year	.. ..	26
(b)	Applications rejected	.. ..	—
(c)	Applications withdrawn	.. ..	—
(d)	Applications approved	.. ..	26
(e)	Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme	.. .. .. ..	452
			38

STANDARD GRANTS

Since the commencement of the Standard Grant scheme, the maximum grant available for the installation of five amenities, namely, hot water system, W.C., bath, wash basin and food store has been £155.

Where however additional works are necessary to provide a bathroom by building on a new structure, the installation of a septic tank where main drainage is not possible, or the bringing of a piped water supply into a dwelling for the first time, the grant may be increased to a maximum of £350.

This amendment which came into operation in August 1964 under the Housing Act 1964, certainly makes more realistic, the financial assistance available to the rural applicant in particular, who is so often involved in such additional expense.

During the year 11 applications were received and approved, bringing to date a total of 38.

11 Standard Grants were completed in the same period.

HOUSING CONSOLIDATION REGULATIONS 1925/32.
REGULATION 31.

1.	No. of houses unfit for human habitation	8
2.	No. of houses where defects were remedied by informal action	130
3.	No. of representations made to the Council with a view to :— (a) serving notices requiring the execution of the work (b) making demolition or closing orders	— — —
4.	No. of notices served requiring the execution of works ..	—
5.	No. of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices ..	—
6.	No. of demolition or closing orders made	—
7.	No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 ..	—
8.	No. of houses demolished	16

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Complaints under this heading were received from the residents of Brunswick Village and Wideopen. This was at the time when the top of the disused pit spoil bank at Brunswick Village was being bulldozed prior to removal by a firm of haulage contractors. Representation was made to the National Coal Board and the operation ceased forthwith. There seems to be no practical method of preventing the nuisance of clouds of fine ash. This makes the position difficult. On one hand the residents want the spoil bank removed, but at the same time, they are not prepared to accept the consequences.

No other complaints of atmospheric pollution have been received from any other part of the district.

The rural district is not included in the Black Areas in connection with the Clean Air Act, but the Health Committee have under consideration the formation of Smoke Control Areas. The implementation of this policy has been deferred pending a satisfactory conclusion to price and quantity of smokeless fuel available.

An atmospheric deposit gauge sited at Heddon-on-the-Wall continues to prove a useful yardstick in comparing the results with surrounding districts. This machine is to be replaced with a volumetric gauge, the results from which will give a more satisfactory and accurate picture of the extent of pollution.

The Council are members of the Northumberland and Durham Local Authorities Clean Air Committee and the National Society for Clean Air.

BUILDING BYELAWS — PART IVa — SMOKE PREVENTION

The above byelaw adopted by this Council in 1957, makes it obligatory to install in a new building heating and cooking appliances which are suitably designed for burning one of the following fuels :—

- (a) Gas.
- (b) Electricity.
- (c) Coke or Anthracite.

Exception is made in the case of furnaces to which Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956, applies.

The Coal Utilisation Council Regional Office, at 18 Saville Row, Newcastle upon Tyne, where all modern approved solid fuel burning appliances are exhibited for inspection by the public, continues to provide an excellent opportunity for free advice on the selection installation and operation of such appliances.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No action was found necessary under this heading.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

During the year the number of premises registered under the above Act was 107.

FACTORIES ACT

There are 78 factories in the district. The following tables show the number of inspections and defects found during the period under review :-

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	39	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	140	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	78	179	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found					No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted	
			Referred				
	Found	Remedied	To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.			
Want of Cleanliness	7	7	—	—	—	—	
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences—							
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	—	—	—	—	
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	10	10	—	—	—	—	

The following report has been provided by the Engineer and Surveyor Mr. G. E. Dimmack, M.I.Mun.E.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Stannington Village

The scheme for the separation of surface water from the old combined drainage system and the construction of a new separate foul sewerage system, together with a modern treatment works incorporating a cold sludge digestion tank has been completed at an estimated cost of £11,000.

This is the first disposal works to be provided with a cold digestion tank and the advantage of including this element of treatment could well lead to the installation of these tanks at a number of the larger disposal works in the district.

2. Netherton Training School

The reconstruction and modernisation of the school disposal works has been completed by the Home Office at a cost of some £10,000 and to which the District Council has agreed to make a contribution of approximately £3,000 and to adopt the works on final satisfactory completion for maintenance at the Public expenses.

3. Northumberland Teachers' Training College, Ponteland.

The large scale development of this site has required the complete re-construction of the existing treatment works. This work has been designed and implemented by private Civil Engineers acting on behalf of the Education Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

In view of the prospect of the college being further enlarged it may be necessary to provide a second disposal works.

4. At the 31st December 1964, the Council controlled 22 sewage treatment works as follows :—

1. Belsay	12. Milbourne (Belsay Road)
2. Berwick Hill	13. Milbourne (Hall Farm)
3. Capheaton	14. Milbourne (Village)
4. Dalton	15. Ogle
5. Fenwick	16. Ponteland (Collingwood
6. Harlow Hill	17. Ryal Cottages)
7. Heddon Hall	18. Stamfordham
8. Heddon-on-the-Wall	19. Stannington Station Road
9. Ingoe	20. Stannington Village
10. Kirkheaton	21. Wallridge
11. Matfen (Standing Stone)	22. Whalton

together with 5 pumping stations through which sewage is passed to either the Seaton Burn Valley Joint Sewerage Board or to the Ouseburn Sewer of the Newcastle Corporation.

The following table gives an indication of the mileage of the various foul and surface water sewers and pumping mains that are maintained by the Rural District Council :—

LOCATION	Separate Systems			Pumping Mains	No. of Manholes
	Foul	Surface Water	Com- bined		
	Length of Sewers in Lin. Yards			Lin. Yd.	
BELSBY			733		11
BERWICK HILL ..			467		7
BRUNTON PARK ..	6661	6921			232
BURN CLOSE			3220		39
CAPHEATON			392		6
DALTON			157		3
DARRAS HALL ..	21821	19967			393
DINNINGTON	9083	4936		3387	67
FENWICK	340				5
FRENCHMAN'S ROW ..			600		5
HAZLERIGG	279	500	3015		55
HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL		677	5415	150	91
KENTON BANK FOOT ..			2600		32
KIRKHEATON			400		16
MILBOURNE	476				7
OGLE			953		11
PONTELAND	8081	6231	7641	3163	451
RYAL	362				6
STAMFORDHAM ..	449	372	3855	30	75
STANNINGTON			7523	727	57
STANDING STONE ..	175				5
WHALTON	103	103	883		12
WOOLSINGTON ..	3403	756	18657		382
TOTALS	51179	40463	54711	7457	1956
Equivalent Mileage of each type ..	29.04	22.92	31.10	4.24	

TOTAL MILEAGE OF ALL TYPES — 87.30.

5. Disposal of Sewage to Neighbouring Authorities

(a) Gosforth Urban District Council

864 Houses at Brunton Park and Melton Park discharge sewage to a sewer belonging to the Gosforth U.D.C.

(b) Seaton Burn Valley Joint Sewerage Board

The total number of premises now draining to the East and West Pumping Stations at Dinnington and from Hazlerigg and Brunswick Village, to the Longbenton U.D.C., Sewer at Seaton Burn School was 1,207 at the 31st December 1964.

(c) Newburn Urban District Council

No new connections were made to the Sewers draining to this Authority during the year ending 31st December, 1964.

(d) City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne

(i) BRUNTON PARK

390 Houses discharge by gravity to the Ouseburn Sewer.

(ii) NEWBIGGIN HALL ESTATE

1,044 Houses and Flats discharge by gravity to the Ouseburn Sewer via the Council's Trunk Sewer from Brunton Bridge to Point 'Z' at Fawdon.

(iii) NEWBIGGIN HALL ESTATE (PHASE 1A)

904 Houses and Flats discharge by gravity to the Black Swine Sewer at Denton Burn. These are mainly properties built by the Newcastle Corporation.

(iv) WHORLTON GRANGE ESTATE

239 Houses, and 2 Factories discharge by gravity to the Ouseburn Sewer via the Council's Trunk Sewer at Brunton Bridge.

(v) PONTELAND, DARRAS HALL, WOOLSINGTON MAIN DRAINAGE

Sewage discharges by gravity and pumping to the head of the Corporation's Ouseburn Sewer, the present average rate of flow being approximately 110 cubic feet per minute.

6. General Remarks

It would be reasonable to say that practically the whole of the Rural District is now served with Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal facilities with the exception only of the village of Matfen.

A Public Enquiry held in 1950 into a scheme to provide proper disposal works to serve this village recommended that a site for Treatment Works should be located at some considerable distance from the village because of the presence of the aqueduct conveying water for the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. Sewage is currently discharging along the bank of the aquaduct through a series of catch pit inanholes which are maintained by the Water Company. Following recent representations by the Northumberland and Tyneside River Board, negotiations have now been resumed with the Water Company with the object of promoting a scheme that will be mutually satisfactory to all interested parties.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED—PRIVY CONVERSIONS

There have been 36 conversions of privies to the water carriage system at the following premises carried out as part of the improvement works under the Housing Acts 1949/59/64 :—

- Hillhead Cottage (North), Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- Hillhead Cottage (South), Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- 1 Cottage, Ryal, Matfen.
- 4 Cottage, Ryal, Matfen.
- West End Cottage, Ryal, Matfen.
- “ Hillcrest ”, Ingoe, Matfen.
- “ Dene View ”, Ingoe, Matfen.
- 1 North Side, Kirkheaton.
- 7 Hexham Road, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- 9 Hexham Road, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- 1 Blue Bell Cottage, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- 2 Blue Bell Cottage, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- 3 Blue Bell Cottage, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- “ Rose Cottage ”, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- 1 The Terrace, Harlow Hill.
- 2 The Terrace, Harlow Hill.
- 3 The Terrace, Harlow Hill.
- 4 The Terrace, Harlow Hill.
- Ouston North Farm House, Stamfordham.
- Brixter Hill, Stamfordham.
- Milbourne Hall, Ponteland.
- 1 Town Farm Cottages, Milbourne, Ponteland.
- 2 Town Farm Cottages, Milbourne, Ponteland.
- 1 Institute Cottages, Milbourne, Ponteland.
- 2 Institute Cottages, Milbourne, Ponteland.
- 3 Institute Cottages, Milbourne, Ponteland.
- 4 South View, Matfen.
- 1 Hill Head Farm Cottages, Whalton.
- 2 Hill Head Farm Cottages, Whalton.
- Clock Mill Farm, Capheaton.
- Harnham Hall, Belsay.
- Harnham Hall Cottage, Belsay.
- 4 Carr View, Prestwick.
- 1 Vale View Cottages, Stannington.
- Corneyside Farmhouse, Matfen.
- 4 The Arcade, Belsay.

	No. of Inspections during yr.	No. of defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects Remedied by Informal Action	No. of Statutory Notices Served
HOUSING—					
Structural defects	103	46	—
Defective Food Store	21	21	—
Dampness	17	17	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY—					
Insufficient	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	180	10	—
DRAINAGE—					
Insufficient	—	—	—
Defective	25	11	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCE—					
Insufficient	—	—	—
Defective	61	15	15
Food Premises					
Slaughter Houses	972	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	469	9	9
Factories and Workplaces	40	3	3
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	179	10	10
Atmospheric Pollution	17	17	17
		18	1	1	1
	2467		243	155	186
					—

CONCLUSION

In presenting this report I should like to thank the members of the Council, and the Chairman of the Health Committee for the continued active interest in the work of the Health Department. To all Chief and other Officials I express my thanks for their co-operation.

I also record my appreciation of the friendly support of the late Dr. Madge Hopper who we all held in high esteem. Her sudden and unexpected death on the eve of retirement was a great and sorrowful shock.

Sincere thanks to Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. R. Hardy, Mr. F. W. Higgins and Mr. W. E. Jobson for loyalty and support in dealing with the day to day problems and to Mrs. J. Docherty and Miss G. Douglas for the clerical work of the department.

ERIC WM. STRACHAN,

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

